Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 00477 100918Z ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /089 W -------101321Z 101928 /40

R 100812Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8991

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL TANANARIVE 0477

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CM, US, MA

SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING COMOROS

REFS: (A) TANANARIVE 0232, (B) TANANARIVE 0378, (C) TANANARIVE 0053, (D) BRUSSELS 2171

- 1. DURING MY MARCH 9 COURTESY CALL ON GERMAN AMBASSADOR, HE SAID FRG MOVING AHEAD ON RECOGNITION OF COMOROS USING "BELGIAN FORMULA." HOWEVER, FRG WAS IN NO HURRY. AMBASSADOR SCHMIDT SPOKE WITH AMUSEMENT OF HIS ITALIAN COLLEAGUE, AMBASSADOR ROTA, WHO HAD SINGLEHANDEDLY PRESSURED HIS GOVERNMENT INTO EARLY RECOGNITION OF COMOROS BUT HAD NEVERTHELESS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN A DATE FOR HIS PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS.
- 2. I AGREE WITH REF A THAT WE SHOULD BE LOOKING INTO MEANS OF EXTENDING RECOGNITION TO COMOROS. IT HAS A VOTE AT THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TANANA 00477 100918Z

UN EQUAL TO EVERYONE ELSE'S AND IS APPARENTLY WILLING TO ENTERTAIN DISCUSSIONS WITH US AS TO HOW ITS VOTE WOULD BE EXERCIZED ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO US (REF B). THE FRENCH APPARENTLY HAVE NO OBJECTION TO RECOGNITION AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT TOUCH ON THE MAYOTTE ISSUE.

3. SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT DEPARTMENT LOOK INTO BELGIAN

FORMULA TO SEE IF WE COULD USE IT, AND/OR FORMULATE OUR OWN ACT OF RECOGNITION WHICH COULD BE CHECKED OUT WITH THE COMORIANS AND FRENCH IN NEW YORK OR PARIS TO SEE IF IT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THEM.

4. RE REF D, WE CANNOT PASS COMOROS AS WE HAVE NO ONE THERE. THERE HAS BEEN NO RECENT COUP IN COMOROS, AND LAST CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT OCCURRED IN LATE 1975. WHEN ALI SOILIH, THEN SECRETARY FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, REPLACED MOHAMMED JAFFAR AS HEAD OF STATE. ALI SOILIH ALSO PLANS TO REORGANIZE THE GIVERNMENT AS REPORTED REF C. AS REPORTED REF B, 16,000 COMORIANS HAVE BEEN REPATRIATED TO THEIR HOME ISLANDS. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE STILL OVER 50,000 COMORIANS IN MADAGASCAR, THE AIR AND SEALIFT IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE ENDED ON FEB 4. ONLY THE 1,500 COMORIANS FROM MAYOTTE WHO WANT TO GO BACK TO THEIR FRENCH-RUN HOME ISLAND FROM MADAGASCAR REMAIN TO BE DEALT WITH AND THIS MATTER IS STILL AT A STANDSTILL BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND MALAGASY GOVERNMENTS.BARRETT

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